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Economic and Social Council

Provisional

22 February 2007

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Resumed organizational session for 2007

Provisional summary record of the 4th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 9 February 2007, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Cekuolis ..... (Lithuania)

Contents

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Basic programme of work of the Council

Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (*continued*)

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07-23298 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Basic programme of work of the Council

Draft proposals submitted by the President and members of the Bureau on the basis of informal consultations held pursuant to paragraph 2 (I) of Council decision 1988/77 (E/2007/L.1)

Draft decision IV: Working arrangements for the substantive session of 2007 of the Economic and Social Council

1. **The President**, drawing the Council's attention to draft decision IV, said that, the previous day, it had been decided that the 2007 high-level segment would be held from 2 to 5 July for a duration of three and a half days, on the understanding that the additional half-day of Thursday afternoon, 5 July, might be required for a possible spillover of speakers. The Council would therefore allow the Bureau a degree of flexibility in formulating the detailed programme of work for the 2007 high-level segment, without prejudging the preparations for further high-level segments of the Council.

2. He therefore proposed holding the high-level segment from 2 to 5 July 2007, the dialogue with Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions on 6 July 2007, the coordination segment from 6 to 10 July 2007, the operational activities segment from 10 to 13 July, the humanitarian affairs segment from 16 to 18 July and the general segment from 19 to 26 July. The Council would conclude its work on 27 July.

3. He took it that the Council wished to approve the working arrangements he had outlined for its 2007 substantive session.

4. *It was so decided.*

5. **Mr. Ruiz** (Mexico), facilitator of the informal informal consultations on the 2007 high-level segment, expressed concern that failure to reach a decision on themes for the 2007 thematic discussion and the 2007 annual ministerial review could jeopardize the process of strengthening of the Council. Delegations were aware that every effort must be made to take a decision as quickly as possible.

6. **The President** said that in light of the briefing by the facilitator, it was his understanding that the Council was not yet in a position to take action on the question of the theme for the 2007 thematic discussion and the theme for the 2007 annual ministerial review, as well as draft decisions II and III contained in document E/2007/L.1. He urged delegations to come to a speedy conclusion on those issues, which had a direct and clear impact on the Council's and the Secretariat's preparations for the July substantive session. If necessary, he would submit a President's proposal to that end.

Draft decision VII: Operational activities segment of the 2007 substantive session

7. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision VII. Under the draft decision, the work of the operations activities segment of the Council's 2007 substantive session would be devoted to the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/250 and Council resolution 2006/14.

8. *It was so decided.*

Draft decision VIII: Theme for the humanitarian affairs segment

9. **The President** said that it was his understanding that pending informal consultations to be convened by Mr. Hannesson (Iceland), Vice-President of the Council, action on the draft decision would be postponed to a later date. Informal informal consultations would also be held on the possibility of convening an informal joint event of the operational activities and humanitarian affairs segments.

Draft decision IX : Theme for the item on regional cooperation

10. **The President** said that, pursuant to Council decision 1982/174, the Council should identify, at its annual organizational session, a subject relating to interregional cooperation, of common interest to all regions, and request the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions to submit their joint recommendations in that regard.

11. The Council would take that decision at a later date in order to allow the Executive Secretaries of the

regional commissions time to identify a theme that could contribute to the Council's thematic discussion and annual ministerial review.

Annotated provisional agenda (E/2007/2/Rev.1)

12. **The President** said that the annotated provisional agenda (E/2007/2/Rev.1) reflected a number of outstanding matters that were before the Council at its organizational session.

Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies: draft annex relating to the World Tourism Organization (E/2006/70)

13. **The President** said that the Council had addressed the matter of the draft annex at its substantive session in July 2006 and again at its resumed substantive session in December. By its decision 2006/263, the Council had agreed to defer consideration of the draft annex on the privileges and immunities of the specialized agencies with respect to the World Tourism Organization to its 2007 organizational session.

14. It was the understanding of the Bureau that consultations were continuing and that more time was needed to allow interested delegations to consult with the World Tourism Organization and the Office of Legal Affairs. The Bureau would therefore recommend that the Council defer its consideration of the matter to its 2007 substantive session.

15. In that connection, he took it that the Council agreed to further defer consideration of the draft annex on the privileges and immunities of the specialized agencies with respect to the World Tourism Organization to its 2007 substantive session.

16. *It was so decided.*

17. **The President** said that, as mentioned in document E/2006/70, the draft annex relating to the World Tourism Organization had been prepared by the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, in close consultation with the Legal Counsel of the World Tourism Organization. He encouraged Council members to utilize the intervening period until the 2007 substantive session to seek clarification on any questions they might have on the issue with those offices.

Application of an intergovernmental organization for observer status with the Council (E/2006/87)

18. **The President** said that in its decision 2006/264, the Council, at its resumed substantive session in December, had agreed to defer consideration of the application for observer status by the International Emergency Management Organization to its organizational session for 2007, in order for the Secretariat to obtain more information from that organization.

19. He proposed that the Council should postpone its consideration of the application of the International Emergency Management Organization until such time as the Secretariat received that information which it was still awaiting. The Council would thus revert to the matter at a later date.

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its eighth session (E/2006/33)

20. **The President** drew attention to recommendation 2 of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its eighth session, regarding the graduation of Samoa from the list of least developed countries. Delegations would recall that in its decision 2006/266, the Council, at its resumed substantive session in December, had agreed to defer consideration of the matter to its organizational session of 2007 to allow for consultations to continue.

21. It was his understanding that, following informal informal consultations conducted by Mr. Mérorès (Haiti), Vice-President of the Council, additional time was needed to conclude the negotiations. The Council would thus revert to the matter at a later date.

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its ninth session (E/2006/31)

22. **The President** said that, as delegations would recall, in its decision 2006/268, the Council, at its resumed substantive session in December, had agreed to defer further consideration of the matter to its 2007 organizational session.

23. It was his understanding that more time was required on the matter, as well as on the question of the participation of non-governmental organizations and business sector entities in the work of the Commission in the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society.

24. He called on the Council to act in a timely manner, in particular on the question of the agenda of the forthcoming session of the Commission, scheduled for 21 to 25 May.

25. The Council would thus revert to those matters at a later date.

Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development

26. **The President** drew attention to a proposal to include, at a future substantive session of the Council, a discussion on promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development. As delegations would recall, in its decision 2006/212, the Council had decided to consider the matter at the 2007 organizational session.

27. It was his understanding that, following informal informal consultations conducted by Mr. Mérorès, Vice-President of the Council, more time was needed to allow for consultations to continue. The Council would thus revert to the issue at a later date.

Adapting the work of the Economic and Social Council

28. **The President** drew the Council's attention to General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Council, adopted pursuant to paragraphs 155 and 156 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome and Council decision 2006/206. It was his intention to convene consultations as soon as possible on the Council's organization of work, agenda and current methods of work with a view to their implementation beginning in 2007.

Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (*continued*) (E/2002/Rev.1/Add.1)

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

29. **The President** invited the Council to elect 20 new members to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, in accordance with the provisions set out in Council resolution 2006/46 and decision 2006/267. Their term would begin on the date of election and expire on a date to be determined by lot.

30. **Ms. De Laurentis** (Secretary of the Council) said that Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea and Sudan had been endorsed by the Group of African States; the Philippines and Sri Lanka had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Argentina and Chile had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Finland and the United States of America had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

31. **The President** said that, since the number of candidates from the African States, Asian States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and Other States was equal to the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed by those groups.

32. *It was so decided.*

33. *Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Sudan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Argentina, Chile, Finland and the United States of America were elected members of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.*

34. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for the remaining seat on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, he took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of one member from the Group of Eastern European States for a term beginning on the date of election.

35. *It was so decided.*

36. *The Council decided by the drawing of lots that Burkina Faso and Sudan would serve for a term expiring on 31 December 2010 and Equatorial Guinea for a term expiring on 31 December 2008.*

37. *The Council decided by the drawing of lots that the Philippines would serve for a term expiring on 31 December 2010 and Sri Lanka for a term expiring on 31 December 2008.*

38. **The President** said that since there was only one member to be elected from the Group of Eastern European States, that member, once elected, would serve for a term expiring on 31 December 2010.

39. *The Council decided by the drawing of lots that Argentina would serve for a term expiring on 31 December 2010 and Chile for a term expiring on 31 December 2008.*

40. *The Council decided by the drawing of lots that the United States of America would serve for a term expiring on 31 December 2010 and Finland for a term expiring on 31 December 2008.*

Elections to fill outstanding vacancies

Programme Coordination Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

41. **The President** said that, in the absence of other candidates, he took it that the Council wished to further postpone the election of one member from the Group of Western European and Other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2009.

42. *It was so decided.*

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

43. **The President** said, with regard to the remaining vacancies on the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, that at the Council's previous meeting, the delegation of Chile had expressed interest in filling one of the outstanding vacancies from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

44. The Chairman of that Group had recently informed him that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was also a candidate for the second vacancy in that Group, and that both Chile and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had been endorsed to fill the two seats.

45. As he had just received the information that day, the election had not been included in the agenda; however, if there was no objection, he would propose that the Council should take action on the two candidatures at the current meeting.

46. He took it that the Council wished to elect Chile and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela by acclamation to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2010.

47. *It was so decided.*

48. **The President** said that there was still one outstanding vacancy on the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme from the Group of Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2008.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.